



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016

No. 74

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, give us reverence for Your greatness. Guide our Senators around the pitfalls of their work, enabling them to have hearts sustained by Your peace. May they surrender their will to You as they trust You to direct their path. Lord, give them the wisdom to receive Your reproof with the understanding that You chastise those whom You love for their good. Undergird them with Your enabling might as You make their lives productive for the glory of Your Name.

Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

### SEVERE WEATHER IN WESTERN KENTUCKY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about the severe weather that hit my home State of Kentucky yesterday. A large tornado touched down in Mayfield in Graves County in Western Kentucky. It damaged homes and businesses and reportedly injured 10 people as it made its way through that part of my State.

Tornadoes were also reported in Muhlenberg and Union Counties. Thankfully, no deaths have been reported in Kentucky as of the latest news reports. Kentuckians are, as always, reaching out to help their neighbors in times of distress, with reports that local churches and businesses have opened their doors to those displaced by the tornadoes as they recover.

We are thinking today of all the Kentuckians who have been hurt by this severe weather. We continue to monitor the situation, and we are thankful that the damage that has been reported so far was not worse.

### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, after much hard work, research, and deliberation from both sides of the aisle, we are closer to having an opportunity to pass the first funding bill of the appropriations season, the energy security and water infrastructure funding bill.

I know Members have some differences of opinion about an amendment authored by Senator COTTON, but this is how the legislative process is supposed to work. Senator COTTON's amendment, which would prevent future funds to purchase heavy water from Iran, is germane to this funding bill, and it deserves a vote.

We are going to have that vote today, allowing Senators from both sides to have their say on this issue and allowing us to move forward on this important measure.

The energy security and water infrastructure funding bill will positively impact every State in America. We know it includes important measures to support energy research and innovation to promote public safety, to maintain waterway infrastructure, and to promote nuclear security.

Let's work to advance this bill and keep the appropriations process moving forward in a responsible manner.

### AMERICAN MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVENESS AND DEFEND TRADE SECRETS BILLS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate passed the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act, a bipartisan bill that—as my friend, the chairman of the Finance Committee, observed—shows our “commitment to helping our economy with more jobs, bigger paychecks, and a stronger American manufacturing base.”

Later today the President will sign into law the Defend Trade Secrets Act, another Senate-passed bill that promotes our economy and helps create and retain American jobs. Both of these bills are the result of the work of two dedicated committee chairmen, Senator HATCH and Senator GRASSLEY. They are also the result of a Senate that is back to work for the American people.

I thank the Finance Committee and Judiciary Committee chairmen for their efforts to advance these bills, just as I thank Senators BURR, PORTMAN, TOOMEY, and FLAKE for their diligent work to help support American businesses and the economy through their efforts to pass the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act.

### THE ECONOMY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, President Obama recently bragged to the New York Times Magazine about his performance on the economy. He boasted about his economic legacy and actually claimed that, by his estimation, the administration managed the economic recovery better than any peer economy facing a financial crisis—now listen to this—“on Earth in modern history.” Well, that is a quote to remember.

The same day this story hit, the Bureau of Economic Analysis released its first quarter report showing only 0.5 percent economic growth. It is the latest reminder of the actual economy

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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